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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Manfred DOMBEK

Art Unit: 1731

Appl. No: 09/773,490

Examiner: Unknown

Confirmation No: 6657

Filed: February 2, 2001

Atty. Docket No: 31512-168231

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS
FOR MAKING AND PROCESSING
ROD-SHAPED ARTICLES

Customer No:



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 within the time specified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

In order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is notified of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

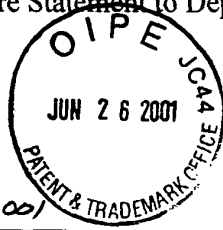
Additionally submitted are copies of U.S. application nos. 09/457,346 and 09/461,182, which are the U.S. counterparts to DE 198 56 413 and DE 198 57 576. Further, a non-verified translation of the Abstract of EP 573 851 is enclosed.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore no Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

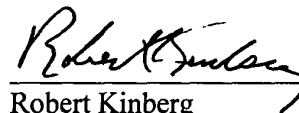
In view of the above, no further translation of foreign language documents and no further statement of relevance need be given, and as all requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, and all official guidelines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the cited publications and make them of record.

Please charge any necessary fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Date: June 26, 2001



Respectfully submitted,


Robert Kinberg
Registration No. 26,924
VENABLE
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 962-4800
Telefax: (202) 962-8300

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